

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 6, please insert the following paragraph beginning at line 14:

FIGS. 6-7 are block diagrams showing how the relay node 50 shown in FIG. 4 and the OXC(s) 3a and 3b shown in FIG. 1 are connected, where FIG. 6 shows two traffic streams being integrated and FIG. 7 shows two traffic streams being divided.

Page 7, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 9 and substitute therefor the following:

The node apparatus 2a allocates input traffic input from each router 1 to a plurality of wavelength paths, and outputs this traffic to the OXC 3a. The OXC 3a multiplexes the input traffic of each wavelength path and ~~send~~ sends it to the OXC 3b. The OXC 3b demultiplexes the traffic of each wavelength path received from the OXC 3a and outputs it to the node apparatus 2b. The node apparatus 2b outputs the input traffic of the plurality of wavelength paths to a corresponding router 1.

Page 15, please insert the following paragraphs between lines 19 and 20:

In FIGS. 6-7, the relay node 50 shown in FIG 4 and OXC(s) 3b and OXC(s) 3a which are directly connected to the relay node 50 are inserted between an OXC 3a and an OXC 3b shown in FIG 1. Here, the optical switch 51 a provided in the relay node 50 corresponds to the optical switch 22 provided in the wavelength path switching node apparatus 2b shown in FIG 1. Similarly, the optical switch 51 b provided in the relay node 50 corresponds to the optical switch 12 provided in the wavelength path switching node apparatus 2a shown in FIG 1. Therefore, a plurality of the structure which includes: a wavelength path switching node apparatus 2a; an OXC 3a; an OXC 3b; and a wavelength path switching node apparatus 2b are connected in tandem as previously explained.

When traffic stream(s) are relayed by the relay node 50, a plurality of traffic streams (in the example shown in FIG. 6, two traffic streams) originated from different sources may be integrated, and a traffic stream may be divided into a plurality of traffic

streams (in the example shown in FIG. 7, two traffic streams) directed to different destinations. Therefore, FIG. 6 shows two sets of the structure which includes: IP routers 1; a wavelength path switching node apparatus 2a; and an OXC 3a. Similarly, FIG. 7 shows two sets of the structure which includes: an OXC 3b; a wavelength path switching node apparatus 2b; and IP routers 1. Of course, the number of traffic streams to be integrated and the number divided traffic streams are not limited to two, and thus the number of OXCs directly connected to the relay node 50 is not limited to three.